



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

17 FEBRUARY 2017

#### (U) CALIFORNIA

##### (U) Riverside – Man Pleads Guilty to Buying Rifles in San Bernardino Attack

(U) A California man who bought high-powered rifles used in the 2015 San Bernardino attack pleaded guilty yesterday. Enrique Marquez Jr. who appeared in federal court, was the only person criminally charged in the December 2015 attack that killed 14 people and wounded 22 others at a meeting of San Bernardino County employees. Husband-and-wife assailants Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik were killed in a shootout with authorities later that day. In addition to purchasing the weapons, Marquez pleaded guilty to conspiring with Farook to draft earlier mass killing plots targeting a community college and a gridlocked Southern California freeway. Authorities said the pair researched bomb-making and bought materials to make explosives, but never carried out those attacks.

SOURCE: 16 February 2017, [Yahoo News](#)

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### (U) Florida – Authorities Arrest Man for Plotting to Bomb Target Stores

(U) Ocala - A Florida man has been charged in a plot to bomb Target stores along the East Coast, with hopes that such an attack would force the retailer's stock to plunge and allow him to cheaply buy its stock, federal investigators announced yesterday. Mark Charles Barnett of Ocala was charged with possession of a firearm affecting commerce by a previously convicted felon. Barnett offered to pay another man \$10,000 to plant at least 10 "improvised explosive bombs" disguised in food-item packaging on store shelves from New York to Florida. He also provided the source with a bag of gloves, a mask, and a license plate cover to disguise the source's identity from law enforcement. The individual contacted law enforcement officials instead of planting the devices in the stores.

SOURCE: 17 February 2017, [ABC News](#)

##### (U) South Carolina – White Supremacist Arrested; Potentially Planned Dylann Roof-Type Attack

(U) Columbia - A white supremacist with felony convictions in South Carolina bought a gun from an undercover FBI agent, telling the agent he planned an attack in "the spirit of Dylann Roof," authorities said yesterday. Benjamin McDowell, 28, was arrested in Myrtle Beach shortly after buying the .40-caliber Glock and ammunition for \$109 from the agent. McDowell didn't have a specific target in mind. McDowell is charged as a felon in possession of a firearm. The gun he was sold had its firing pin filed down so it could not be used. McDowell is being held in the Horry County jail.

SOURCE: 16 February 2017, [Yahoo News](#)

#### (U) INTERNATIONAL

##### (U) Pakistan – Military Crackdown Launched After Shrine Attack

(U) Peshawar – The Pakistani army today arrested or killed dozens of suspected militants and launched artillery rounds at targets in neighboring Afghanistan a day after a suicide bombing at a Sufi shrine killed at least 88 people. Residents in Pakistan's Khyber tribal district said security forces fired barrages into Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, where militants loyal to The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

have often found sanctuary. An ISIL affiliate claimed responsibility for the bombing yesterday at a shrine to Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, a 13th century Sufi preacher, in southern Pakistan's Sindh province. Security officials said they had killed 44 suspected militants in security operations across the country. Eighteen were killed in the southern port city of Karachi, which lies 100 miles from the shrine. Pakistani officials have played down the claim by ISIL loyalists, saying only that the attack came from militants based in Afghanistan.

SOURCE: 17 February 2017, [LA Times](#)

**(U) United Kingdom – Man Arrested on Suspicion of Preparing Attacks**

(U) London – Detectives from the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command arrested a man at Heathrow Airport on suspicion of planning attacks. The 36 year old man is in custody at a west London police station. A Met Police spokesman said they could not speculate as to whether he will be charged with an offence overnight. It follows a 50-year-old man being arrested on suspicion of committing a terrorist act, after arriving from Cairo, at the busy airport hub last month. A 29-year-old man was also arrested under the Terrorism Act last year before he was due to fly to Saudi Arabia.

SOURCE: 17 February 2017, [Independent](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

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